the huge potential of Inland Water Transport through National Waterway No. 1 (Haldia-Kolkata-Patna-Allahabad) and National Waterway No. 2 (Pandu-Dhubri-Sadiya);

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would appoint an expert Committee to develop inland water transport facilities on the above waterways which would generate adequate resources for CIWTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Infrastructural facilities such as fairways, navigational aids, floating terminals, survey launches etc. have been provided. Further works have been undertaken to provide for permanent terminals at Patna and Pandu.

(c) Does not arise since Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is already providing Inland Water Transport facilities on National Waterways No. 1 and No. 2.

Improvement of Brahmaputra and Barak River

2350. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the major works done for improvement of Brahmaputra and Barak River after taking it over as NW-II showing achievements;

(b) whether two dredgers have been placed into action;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the dredging works already done, year-wise; and

(d) if no work has been done so far, the reasons for the delay and target fixed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) River Brahmaputra (Dhubri to Sadiya) has been declared as a National Waterway and various development works such as river conservancy, day channel marking, conduct of Thalweg surveys, issue of river notices, floating terminals at

Dhubri, Jogighopa and Pandu, have been undertaken. Further, construction of a permanent terminal at Pandu has been undertaken and action has been initiated for providing night navigation facilities in a phased manner. As regard River Barak, the same has not been declared as a Natioal Waterway.

(b) and (c) One hydraulic surface dredger was deployed on NW-II in February 2002. It did trial dredging during 2001-02 and dredging for clearing shoals between Dhubri and Pandu during 2002-03. The other dredger is under construction and hence not deployed.

(d) Does not arise.

Bagri community

†2351. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Bagri' community is being brought into the general category after removing it from the Scheduled Caste category; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) 'Bagri' community has been notified as Scheduled Caste in the State of Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.The Government of Chhattisgarh has apprised that since 24 communities including 'Bagri' community were not found in Chhattisgarh region as per Censuses of 1961 and 1971 and were not resident of Chhattisgarh region on the date of the issue of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) order, 1950 *i.e.* 10.08.1950, therefore, their inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes in the State of Chhattisgarh is not appropriate.

NGOs working for senior citizens in Chhattisgarh

2352. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NGOs operating in Chhattisgarh working for upliftment of the senior citizens;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.